

(7) An ex parte communication shall not constitute a part of the record for decision. The Commission or the presiding officer may, to the extent consistent with the interests of justice and the policy of the statutes administered by the Commission, consider a violation of paragraph (b) of this section sufficient grounds for a decision adverse to a party who has knowingly caused such violation to occur and may take such other action as may be appropriate under the circumstances. [Rule 11.]

[49 FR 44369, Nov. 6, 1984; 49 FR 47394, Dec. 4, 1984]

§ 502.12 Applicability of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

In proceedings under this part, for situations which are not covered by a specific Commission rule, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will be followed to the extent that they are consistent with sound administrative practice.

[58 FR 27210, May 7, 1993]

Subpart B—Appearance and Practice Before the Commission

§ 502.21 Appearance.

(a) *Parties.* A party may appear in person or by an officer, partner, or regular employee of the party, or by or with counsel or other duly qualified representative, in any proceeding under the rules in this part. Any party or his or her representative may testify, produce and examine witnesses, and be heard upon brief and at oral argument if oral argument is granted.

(b) *Persons not parties.* One who appears in person before the Commission or a representative thereof, either by compulsion from, or request or permission of the Commission, shall be accorded the right to be accompanied, represented, and advised by counsel.

(c) *Special requirement.* An appearance may be either general, that is, without reservation, or it may be special, that is, confined to a particular issue or question. If a person desires to appear specially, he or she must expressly so state when entering the appearance and, at that time, shall also state the questions or issues to which he or she

is confining the appearance; otherwise his or her appearance will be considered as general. [Rule 21.]

§ 502.22 Authority for representation.

Any individual acting in a representative capacity in any proceeding before the Commission may be required to show his or her authority to act in such capacity. [Rule 22.]

§ 502.23 Notice of appearance; written appearance; substitutions.

(a) Within twenty (20) days after service of an order or complaint instituting a proceeding, complainants, respondents, and/or petitioners named therein shall notify the Commission of the name(s) and address(es) of the person or persons who will represent them in the pending proceeding. Each person who appears at a hearing shall deliver a written notice of appearance to the reporter, stating for whom the appearance is made. All appearances shall be noted in the record. Petitions for leave to intervene shall indicate the name(s) and address(es) of the person or persons who will represent the intervenor in the pending proceeding if the petition is granted. If an attorney or other representative of record is superseded, there shall be filed a stipulation of substitution signed both by the attorney(s) or representative(s) and by the party, or a written notice from the client to the Commission.

(b) A form of Notice of Appearance is set forth in Exhibit No. 1 to this subpart. This form also contains a request and authorization for counsel to be notified immediately of the service of decisions of the presiding officer and the Commission by collect telephone call or telegram. Copies of this form may be obtained from the Office of the Secretary. [Rule 23.]

§ 502.24 Practice before the Commission defined.

(a) Practice before the Commission shall be deemed to comprehend all matters connected with the presentation of any matter to the Commission, including the preparation and filing of necessary documents, and correspondence with and communications to the Commission, on one's own behalf or representing another. (See § 502.32).

Federal Maritime Commission

§ 502.30

(b) The term “Commission” as used in this subpart includes any bureau, division, office, branch, section, unit, or field office of the Federal Maritime Commission and any officer or employee of such bureau, division, office, branch, section, unit, or field office. [Rule 24.]

§ 502.25 Presiding officer defined.

“Presiding officer” means and shall include (a) any one or more of the members of the Commission (not including the Commission when sitting as such), (b) one or more administrative law judges or (c) one or more officers authorized by the Commission to conduct nonadjudicatory proceedings when duly designated to preside at such proceedings. (See subpart J of this part.) [Rule 25.]

§ 502.26 Attorneys at law.

Attorneys at law who are admitted to practice before the Federal courts or before the courts of any State or Territory of the United States may practice before the Commission. An attorney’s own representation that he is such in good standing before any of the courts herein referred to will be sufficient proof thereof, if made in writing and filed with the Secretary. [Rule 26.]

§ 502.27 Persons not attorneys at law.

(a)(1) Any person who is not an attorney at law may be admitted to practice before the Commission if he or she is a citizen of the United States and files proof to the satisfaction of the Commission that he or she possesses the necessary legal, technical, or other qualifications to render valuable service before the Commission and is otherwise competent to advise and assist in the presentation of matters before the Commission. Applications by persons not attorneys at law for admission to practice before the Commission shall be made on the forms prescribed therefor, which may be obtained from the Secretary of the Commission, and shall be addressed to the Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC, 20573, and shall be accompanied by a fee as required by § 503.43(h) of this chapter.

(2) All applicants must complete the following certification:

I, _____ (Name _____, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States, that I have not been convicted, after September 1, 1989, of any Federal or State offense involving the distribution or possession of a controlled substance, or that if I have been so convicted, I am not ineligible to receive Federal benefits, either by court order or operation of law, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 862.

(b) No person who is not an attorney at law and whose application has not been approved shall be permitted to practice before the Commission.

(c) Paragraph (b) of this section and the provisions of §§ 502.29 and 502.30 shall not apply, however, to any person who appears before the Commission on his or her own behalf or on behalf of any corporation, partnership, or association of which he or she is a partner, officer, or regular employee. [Rule 27.]

[49 FR 44369, Nov. 6, 1984, as amended at 55 FR 42194, Oct. 18, 1990; 58 FR 58976, Nov. 5, 1993; 62 FR 6132, Feb. 11, 1997]

§ 502.29 Hearings.

The Commission, in its discretion, may call upon the applicant for a full statement of the nature and extent of his or her qualifications. If the Commission is not satisfied as to the sufficiency of the applicant’s qualifications, it will so notify him or her by registered mail, whereupon he or she shall be granted a hearing upon request for the purpose of showing his or her qualifications. If the applicant presents to the Commission no request for such hearing within twenty (20) days after receiving the notification above referred to, his or her application shall be acted upon without further notice. [Rule 29.]

§ 502.30 Suspension or disbarment.

The Commission may deny admission to, suspend, or disbar any person from practice before the Commission who it finds does not possess the requisite qualifications to represent others or is lacking in character, integrity, or proper professional conduct. Any person who has been admitted to practice before the Commission may be disbarred from such practice only after being afforded an opportunity to be heard. [Rule 30.]